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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/682,780	10/18/2001	Victor I. Deonarine	ITW7510.005	5444
33647	7590	10/06/2003	EXAMINER	
ZIOLKOWSKI PATENT SOLUTIONS GROUP, LLC (ITW) 14135 NORTH CEDARBURG ROAD MEQUON, WI 53097			COTTINGHAM, JOHN R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3679	

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SW

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/682,780

Applicant(s)

DEONARINE, VICTOR I.

Examiner

John R. Cottingham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1- are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fox U.S. Patent 4,875,782. Fox shows all of the claimed subject matter of an apparatus in figures 1-3.

Regarding claim 1, an apparatus to reposition a temperature indicator stick 26, the apparatus comprising: a housing (lower portion of 10) having an outer surface and an inner chamber to receive a temperature indicator stick 26 therein; an advancement mechanism 22 positioned about the outer surface of the housing and capable of contact with a temperature indicator stick 26 positioned in the chamber of the housing to advance the temperature indicator stick 26 with motion applied to the advancement mechanism.

Regarding claim 2, further including a resistance mechanism (lower portion of 22) configured to prevent rotation of the temperature indicator stick.

Regarding claim 3, wherein the advancement mechanism 22 advances the temperature indicator stick one of into the housing and out of the housing.

Regarding claim 4, wherein rotatable motion applied to the advancement mechanism advances the temperature indicator stick. (by motor 12)

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Regarding claim 5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the temperature indicator stick has at least one ridge (threads) configured to engage the advancement mechanism.

Regarding claim 6, wherein the advancement mechanism has one or more threads.

Regarding claim 7, wherein the housing (lower portion of 10) has a tapered end to align the temperature indicator stick with the one or more threads. (the narrowed and wider parts of the chamber)

Regarding claim 8, wherein the advancement mechanism 12 is rotatably fixed to the housing.

Regarding claim 9, wherein the advancement mechanism 22 is a collet having threads.

Regarding claim 10, a temperature indicator stick extension and retraction apparatus comprising: means for aligning a temperature indicator stick 26 to permit axial movement; and means 22 for controlling axial movement of the temperature indicator stick to extend and retract the temperature indicator stick.

Regarding claim 11 further comprising a means (lower portion of 22) for preventing rotational movement of the temperature indicator stick 26 during the axial movement.

Regarding claim 12, wherein the means for preventing rotational movement is a plurality of flanges configured to engage a ridge of the temperature indicator stick.

Regarding claim 13, further comprising a means for accumulating residue of the temperature indicator stick upon axial movement of the temperature indicator stick. (threads engaging the threads on the stick)

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Regarding claim 14, wherein the means (upper part of the chamber) for accumulating residue comprises forming the temperature indicator stick in a non-circular shape to have a volume of space in the means for controlling movement of the temperature indicator stick.

Regarding claim 15, wherein the means for controlling movement of the temperature indicator stick includes a rotatable collet 22 having a threaded portion configured to engage the temperature indicator stick.

Regarding claim 16, wherein the means for controlling allows extension and retraction of the temperature indicator stick with a single motion.

Regarding claim 17, wherein the means for aligning a temperature indicator stick includes a housing 10 (lower portion) having an outer surface and an inner chamber to receive a temperature indicator stick therein.\

Regarding claim 18, an apparatus to extend and retract a temperature indicator stick, the apparatus comprising: a housing (lower portion of 10) having at least one annular ring at one end 14 and adapted to receive within the housing a temperature indicator stick 26; a resistance mechanism (lower portion of 22) secured to the housing to oppose rotational movement of the temperature indicator stick 26; and a collet 22 having threads and rotatably coupled to the at least one annular ring of the housing, the collet 22 configured to engage the temperature indicator stick 26 upon rotation of the collet about the housing. (the housing is only view as the lower half).

Regarding claim 19, wherein a pair of annular rings 14 couples the collet 22 to the housing.

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Regarding claim 20, wherein the resistance mechanism includes a series of flanges connected to an interior of the housing. (lower portion of 22 has multiple flanges)

Regarding claim 21, wherein the temperature indicator stick has at least one ridge (threads) configured to engage the threads upon rotation of the collet 22 to cause one of extension and retraction of the temperature indicator stick from the housing.

Regarding claim 22, wherein the housing is contoured (the bearing portion) at one end to align the threads of the collet with the at least one ridge of the temperature indicator stick.

Regarding claim 23, wherein the temperature indicator stick is ovally shaped.

Regarding claim 24, an apparatus to reposition a temperature indicator stick 26, the apparatus comprising: a housing (lower portion of 10) having an inner chamber directed along a generally longitudinal axis to receive a temperature indicator stick 26 therein; and a transducer 22 which is mounted to the housing and rotatable about the generally longitudinal axis, the transducer 22 engaging the temperature indicator stick 26 to convert such rotatable motion to linear repositioning of the temperature indicator stick along the generally longitudinal axis.

Regarding claim 25, a kit to reposition a temperature indicator stick, the kit comprising: a housing (lower portion of 10) having an inner chamber to receive a first indicator stick 26, the first indicator stick 26 being shortened in normal use; an advancement mechanism proximate to the housing and capable of contact with the first temperature indicator stick positioned in the inner chamber of the housing to advance the first temperature indicator stick with motion applied to the advancement mechanism; and

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a second indicator stick 36 which may replace the first indicator stick in the inner chamber. (The 2nd stick 36 enters the chamber as the 1st stick 26 leaves)

Regarding claim 26, an apparatus to reposition a temperature indicator stick, the apparatus comprising: a housing (lower portion of 12) having an inner chamber to receive a temperature indicator stick 26 therein; and means²² for advancing the temperature indicator stick by a rotating motion about the housing.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Archer U.S. Patent 4,887,625, Montreuil et al. U.S. Patent 5,667,306, and Kung et al. U.S. Patent 4,962,306 show similar inventions.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John R. Cottingham whose telephone number is (703) 306-3439. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne H. Browne can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-216.


John R. Cottingham

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